

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A method for the detection of a fungal pathogen, comprising the steps of:

- (a) isolating DNA from a plant leaf infected with a pathogen;
- (b) subjecting said DNA to polymerase chain reaction amplification using a pair of primers wherein each primer has sequence identity with at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of a mitochondrial small subunit rDNA gene from *Fusarium proliferatum* ~~a *Fusarium* spp.~~ and wherein at least one primer comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS:14 or 20; and
- (c) detecting said fungal pathogen by visualizing the product or products of said polymerase chain reaction amplification.

8-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the primers comprise:

- ~~a) SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16;~~
- ~~— b) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:18;~~
- ~~— c) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:19; or~~
- ~~— d) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:20.~~

14-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A diagnostic kit used in detecting *Fusarium proliferatum* ~~a fungal pathogen~~ comprising at least one primer having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14 or 20 ~~13-20, 23 or 24~~.

18. (currently amended) A diagnostic kit used in detecting *Fusarium proliferatum* ~~a fungal pathogen~~ comprising a pair of primers of:

- ~~a) SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16;~~

b) ~~SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:18;~~

e) ~~SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:19; and~~

d) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:20.